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Mar 17/89

BEARGEN FAMILIES OF THE KLEINE GEMEINDE

Introduction.

Five Von Beargen families settled in the Molotschna Colony, South Russia, in 1804/1805, namely, Elias von Beargen (1743-1807) - Schoensee, Jakob von Beargen (1758-1833) - Schoenau, Heinrich von Beargen (born 1750) - Fischau, and Wilhelm von Beargen (born 1774) - Lichtenau, and Margaretha von Beargen, nee Wiebe, whose village of settlement is not recorded.¹ Another Beargen related family in the Kleine Gemeinde was that of Peter Rempel (1792-1837) who was married for the first time to the widow of Jakob Wall, nee Katharina Berchen (1780-1831) but this family seemingly emigrated to the Molotschna considerably later.² Since a number of these families were closely connected to the Kleine Gemeinde it seems valid to explore the ancestry of all the Molotschna von Beargens to determine whether these families are related to each other in some way.

Elias von Baergen (1743-1807), Schoensee, Molotschna.

1 Elias von Beargen (1743-1807) emigrated from Schlanitz, Amt Mowa, Prussia, to Russia in 1805 where he settled on Wirtschaft 5 in Schoensee, Molotschna.³ He was the son of Hans von Beargen who died in Ladekopperfeld, Prussia, in 1752. This would make Elias von Beargen a first cousin to Gerhard von Beargen (1742-1791) who was the second Aeltester of the Heuboden Gemeinde in the southern part of the Grosswerder triangle in Prussia.⁴ Elias von Beargen was married for the second time to Gertruda Regehr (1764-1827).⁵

2 According to genealogist Dr. Edward R. Brandt their son Johan von Beargen (born 1787) married Justina W. Heidebrecht (born ca. 1794) the daughter of Cornelius Heidebrecht (born ca. 1764) and Maria Warkentin (born 1764) who settled on Wirtschaft No. 10 in Muntau in 1804. According to Dr. Brandt it was their daughter Justina Beargen (1812-1840) who was the first wife of Kleine Gemeinde school teacher Cornelius F. Friesen (1810-1892), later of Blumenort, Manitoba.⁶

Helena Jahnke, the daughter of Cornelius F. Friesen (1810-1892) writes that her father's first wife was born in Schoensee on October 24, 1812 and identifies her as the "step daughter of Peter East of Muntau."⁷ Accordingly it appears that the widow of Johan Beargen married for the second time to Peter East, owner of Wirtschaft 19, in Muntau.⁸ This seems to fit the pattern as Klaas Feimer (1770-1837) founding Aeltester of the Kleine Gemeinde refers to a Peter East of Muntau hosting a brotherhood meeting ✓